

## CLAIMS

1. A vehicle powertrain control system comprising:
  - an electric motor drive system;
  - a first battery coupled to said electric motor drive system;
  - an electronically controlled switch coupled to said first
  - 5 battery;
  - a second battery coupled to said electronically controlled switch; and
  - wherein said electronically controlled switch applies power from said second battery to supplement said first battery.
2. The vehicle powertrain control system of Claim 1 further comprising a DC/DC converter coupled to said electronically controlled switch, wherein said electronically controlled switch applies power from said DC/DC converter to supplement said second battery.
3. The vehicle powertrain control system of Claim 1 wherein said electric motor drive system comprises an inverter coupled to an induction motor.
4. The vehicle control system of Claim 1 wherein said first battery comprises a lead acid battery.
5. The vehicle control system of Claim 1 wherein said second battery comprises a lead acid battery.
6. The vehicle control system of Claim 1 wherein said electronically controlled switch comprises a silicon conducting rectifier.
7. The vehicle control system of Claim 1 wherein said electronically controlled switch comprises a transistor.

8. The vehicle control system of Claim 1 wherein said electronically controlled switch comprises an electromechanical relay.

9. A vehicle powertrain control system comprising:

an electric motor drive system;

a first battery coupled to said electric motor drive system;

an electronically controlled switch coupled to said first

5. battery;

a DC/DC converter coupled to said electronically controlled switch; and

wherein said electronically controlled switch applies power from said DC/DC converter to supplement said first battery.

10. The vehicle powertrain control system of Claim 9 further comprising a second battery coupled to said electronically controlled switch, wherein said electronically controlled switch applies power from said second battery to supplement said first battery.